

Oxford Life Science Association Bio Careers Day 2025



Richard Doll Lecture Theatre & Atrium
University of Oxford
26th March 2025



Contents

About	3
Oxford Life Science Association	3
Local Organising Team (Alphabetic Order)	3
Timetable	4
Morning Sessions	4
Afternoon Sessions	5
Invited Speaker Biographies	6
Useful Information	9
How to get to the Richard Doll Building?	9
Sponsors	10
Contact Us	11
Contact Us	11
Join Us	11
Feedback	11

Oxford Life Science Association

Oxford Life Science Association (OLSA), previously known as Oxford Chinese Life Science Society (OCLSS), was founded in 2013. We are a joint force of energetic students, productive postdocs, and successful professors in the Medical Sciences Division of the University of Oxford. Over the years, we have been devoting ourselves to nurturing a network of scientists, scholars, and students at Oxford. OLSA has now grown into an active association that facilitates academic communications locally in Oxford and holds virtual seminars nationally and globally.

The Careers Day 2025 focuses on empowering students, researchers, and professionals in the life sciences with insights into diverse career paths. The event features two main sessions: Academic Careers and Industry & Beyond, covering career trajectories in research, biotech, consulting, and more. In addition to inspiring talks and panel discussions from distinguished professors, industry leaders, and accomplished alumni, the event offers valuable networking opportunities.

Local Organising Team (Alphabetic Order)

Dou Hong	Jiayi Fu	Luyao Wang
Miaoqing Yang	Qingjia Zeng	Siwei Deng
Xueli Ban	Ying-Jie Wang	Yirui Jiang
Yongyi Guo		

Timetable

Morning Sessions

9:00–9:30	Registration & Refreshments	
9:30–9:40	Welcome Speech	
9:30–9:40	Dr Ying-Jie Wang Chairman of OLSA	Greetings from Local Organiser
9:40–12:20	Session I: Scientific Careers in and Beyond Academia (Chair: Ms Jiayi Fu)	
9:40–10:00	Prof Ming Lei Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology	Understanding of Cellular Physiology: the Beginning of Innovative Drug Discovery
10:00–10:20	Dr Kenji Hashimoto Founder of Bi-Path Bio; Clinical Development Consultant in Oncology; Ex-CMO	Open the Small Door to the Wider World
10:20–10:40	Dr David Clyne Medical Advisor (Haematology-Oncology) at AbbVie and Honorary Group Leader	From Academia to Big Pharma: My Adventure So Far
10:40–11:00	Coffee Break with Small Talks	
11:10–11:30	Dr Xiao Qin Junior Group Leader	Returning to Oxford: My Career Journey
11:30–11:50	Dr Jeff Liu CEO and Co-founder of Ramanomics	Oxford Needs More Entrepreneurs
11:50–11:55	HaploX (Sponsor Talk)	Quality Multi-Omics Service to Empower Your Research
11:55–12:00	MedChemExpress (Sponsor Talk)	MedChemExpress — Advancing Drug Discovery
12:00–12:30	Career Panel Discussion With Morning Session Speakers (Chair: Dr Miaoqing Yang)	
	Panellist: Prof Ming Lei, Dr Kenji Hashimoto, Dr David Clyne, Dr Xiao Qin, Dr Jeff Liu, and Dr Gaurav Gupta	
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	

Afternoon Sessions

13:30–16:30	Session II: Scientific Careers in and Beyond Academia (Chair: Ms Xueli Ban)	
13:30–13:50	Dr Jack Gordon Business Analyst at Lifescience Dynamics	Life Sciences Consulting: Delivering Insights for Global Pharma
13:50–14:10	Dr Aadil El-Turabi Senior Postdoctoral Researcher (Vaccinologist)	Changing Lanes: from Industry/Biotech to Academia
14:10–14:30	Dr Paul Wan Vice President of Business Development and Early Discovery (Europe)	Academia to Industry — Reflections Over Nearly 3 Decades
14:30–15:00	Coffee Break with Small Talks	
15:00–15:20	Dr Kusal Lokuge Senior Science Policy & Research Analyst at NICE	Not Just a Mere 9 to 5
15:20–15:40	Dr Faseeha Ayaz <i>Nature Communications</i> Editor	From Research to an Editor at <i>Nature Communications</i>
15:40–16:00	Ms Catherine Xu Investment Manager at Atma Capital	Empowering the Future: Early Stage Investments and Personal Growth for Mindfulness Leadership
16:00–16:30	Career Panel Discussion With Afternoon Session Speakers (Chair: Dr Luyao Wang)	
	Panellist: Dr Jack Gordon, Dr Aadil El-Turabi, Ms Catherine Xu, Dr Kusal Lokuge, Dr Faseeha Ayaz, and Dr Paul Wan	

Invited Speaker Biographies

Professor Ming Lei Ming Lei (DPhil, Oxford) is Professor in Physiology and Pharmacology in the Department of Pharmacology at University of Oxford. Since awarded the Wellcome Trust CDA Fellowship in 2001 to establish his group, he has been researching on ion channels, cardiac electrophysiology and pharmacology for 25 years at the Universities of Oxford and Manchester. His research focuses on cardiac electrical and Ca^{2+} handling function, exploring regulatory signalling in health and disease. His work has advanced understanding of arrhythmic and hypertrophic disorders, leading to the development of more effective therapeutic interventions. He has published over 160 papers in top journals including *Circulation*, *Circulation Research*, *Nature Chemical Engineering*, *Nature Communications* with an H-index of 50. His research is substantially supported by Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust and British Heart Foundation. He has served on the editorial boards of *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*, *Experimental Physiology*, and *British Journal of Pharmacology*.

Dr Kenji Hashimoto Dr Hashimoto is a board-certified medical oncologist with over 20 years of experience in both academia and industry. He is a founder of Bi-Path Bio and also director of his own consulting company. He currently serves multiple biotech company as clinical development advisor. Previously, he was Chief Medical Officer at Crescendo Biologics. Kenji supported the transition of the company from preclinical phase to clinical stage and led the phase I study of T cell bispecific biotherapeutics. Prior to Crescendo, Kenji took the leadership role for the late phase clinical development of a checkpoint inhibitor at Roche/Genentech. Prior to that, he led the clinical team at Chugai Pharma Europe for a bispecific T cell engager as well as other early phase projects. Kenji completed his medical oncology training at the National Cancer Centre Hospital, Tokyo. He has a PhD in oncology from the University of Oxford and a medical degree from Gunma University in Japan.

Dr Paul Wan Bio to be provided.

Dr Gaurav Gupta Bio to be provided.

Dr Aadil El-Turabi Dr Aadil El-Turabi is a distinguished scientist with over 18 years of experience spanning both industry and academia. His expertise lies in bioprocessing, protein purification, and vaccine development, with a background in biochemistry and molecular biology. He has held key roles, including Lead Scientist and Head of Protein Production at iQur Ltd (Biotech), with formative research experience in oncology at Novartis and contract research at Covance. His recent work integrates molecular and structural virology with translational biomedical applications, particularly in developing virus-like particle (VLP)-based vaccines for chronic diseases. As a Co-Investigator in the OligoFIT consortium, he has led research on biomarker-driven personalised medicine for

neurodegenerative diseases. His past collaborations with Prof. Martin Bachmann and Prof. Dame Sarah Gilbert have focused on preclinical vaccine development and scalable vaccine production systems. At Oxford, his research explores therapeutic vaccines to redefine preventative medicine and improve access to cost-effective biologics.

Dr David Clynes Dr David Clynes, a dedicated professional in the field of haemato-oncology, boasts a diverse career spanning academic research, pharmaceutical R&D, and medical affairs. Beginning with a first-class BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Leeds, he earned his DPhil in Biochemistry from the University of Oxford. David's impressive academic journey includes over 5 years as a Scientific Group Leader at Oxford, where he led pioneering research in cancer therapeutics. Transitioning to the pharmaceutical industry, he contributed to Merck's R&D projects and later joined AbbVie, quickly progressing to Senior Medical Science Liaison before becoming a Medical Advisor. Throughout his career, David has built strong relationships with key opinion leaders and contributed to strategic medical planning. Recognised as AbbVie UK's Oncology MSL of the Year 2023, he continues to combine his scientific insight with industry acumen, impacting cancer research and treatment positively.

Dr Qin Xiao I studied Biological Science at Peking University before moving to the UK in 2013 to pursue a DPhil in Clinical Medicine at the University of Oxford. After completing my PhD in 2017, I spent six years as a postdoctoral researcher at the UCL Cancer Institute, investigating cell signalling in the colorectal cancer tumour microenvironment. In early 2024, I returned to Oxford as a junior group leader at the MRC Translational Immune Discovery Unit (TIDU), MRC WIMM. My research focuses on using genome-engineered organoid models and multiomic single-cell technologies to study how various factors regulate epithelial cell plasticity in precancerous lesions of the human colon. Outside the lab, I enjoy reading, spending time with friends, and tinkering with both analog and digital tools.

Dr Kusal Lokuge Oxford to me was more than just a degree—it was an education, having been involved in numerous sports, societies, middle common room committees, the Oxford Union, and possibly a few too many BOPs in addition to my DPhil, and met hundreds of wonderful people whilst at it. After finishing my DPhil, I started working as a health economist at NICE, where I contributed towards guidelines relating to type 1 diabetes, weight management, type 2 diabetes, and recurrent UTI by reviewing economic evidence, developing original cost-effectiveness models and defending my work in national policy meetings. Later I had an opportunity to work as a technical adviser in the methods team at the centre for guidelines at NICE, where I was the technical QA lead in 13 national guidelines, providing methodological oversight and QAing the epidemiological work conducted in the evidence review by the technical team. I am currently working within the Science, Policy and Research team at NICE where I am involved in European Grant funded projects, and HTA Labs projects where we look to develop creative solutions to complex problems in health technology assessment.

Dr Jack Gordon For my undergraduate degree, I studied Biomedical Sciences at University of Sheffield and was awarded the Departmental Prize for overall achievement before graduating in

2019. I then completed my PhD in developmental neuroscience at the University of Oxford as part of the BBSRC Doctoral Training Programme. My PhD focused on the development of synaptic wiring in the mouse striatum, using electrophysiology and single-cell transcriptomics, and included stints as a visiting researcher at the University of Antwerp. During and following my PhD I worked at Neuro-Bio, a spin-out focused on neurodegenerative diseases, where I led pre-clinical drug screening projects. I moved into consulting at Lifescience Dynamics as an intern in July 2024, before taking up my current position as a Business Analyst in November. At LSD, we work with global pharma clients to provide a detailed picture of various diseases areas to support their drug development and commercial efforts.

Dr Faseeha Ayaz Faseeha completed her undergraduate degree in Pharmacology at King's College London before pursuing a DPhil in Cardiovascular Science at the University of Oxford under Dr. Mark Crabtree and Prof. Keith Channon. Her research focused on immunometabolism in diabetes and vascular function. In 2023, she joined *Nature Communications*, where she primarily handles papers on cardiovascular biology and disease, including preclinical, clinical, epidemiology, and machine learning manuscripts. She is also an advisory editor for *npj Cardiovascular Health* and a freelancing editor for *Nature Cardiovascular Research* and *Communications Biology*.

Catherine Xu Catherine Xu currently specialises in early-stage investments in deep tech, renewable energy, and healthcare sectors at ATMA Capital. She has prior experience working with a government fund in mainland China, a European investment bank in Hong Kong, and a publicly listed healthcare company in Hangzhou. She also set up a digital platform for healthcare service in China. She is the president of Existential Meditation Society in Oxford. Catherine holds a bachelor's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a master's degree from Imperial College London. She is also pursuing an Executive MBA (EMBA) at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford. She will share her career path and some case studies of her investment portfolios.

Jeff Liu Graduated PhD in oncology in Oxford University studying colorectal cancer metastasis and epigenetic changes using GMM-chi. Currently, the CEO and co-founder of Ramanomics is building a platform that leverages long Oxford research and machine learning software to identify bacteria and fungi from clinical samples and rapidly produce their antimicrobial profile. The platform generates results under 3 hours compared to 3 days under current standards when facing a patient with an acute microbial infection.

Useful Information

Talks will be held at the **Lecture Theatre of the Richard Doll Building**.

Coffee breaks, lunch, and the poster session will be offered/held in the Atrium of the Richard Doll Building.

Eduroam Wi-Fi network will be available during the symposium.

How to get to the Richard Doll Building?



Sponsors

Sponsors are listed in alphabetical order.



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- Web: www.olsa.life
- Email: oxford.lifescience@outlook.com / admin@olsa.life
- Twitter/X: @OxfordLifeSci
- WhatsApp group chat



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